

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02689 270906Z

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-12 AID-07 /033 W

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P 270840Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIOCITY 0090

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2689

FROM MCELDFOWNEY MUSCAT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OTRA, SCUL, MU

SUBJ: OMAN DECLINES AFME PROPOSAL

REF: BEIRUT 6620 (NOTAL) ET AL

SUMMARY: OMAN MINED HAS DECIDED TO DECLINE AFME PROPOSAL TO PLACE AND ADMINISTER STUDENTS GOING TO U.S. UNIVERSITIES. INSTEAD THEY INTEND RELY ON THEIR CONTACTS WITH U.S. EDUCATORS AND THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY

1. MINED OFFICIAL RAMSEY MUSTAFA INFORMED EMBASSY JUNE 25 THAT MINED DECIDED AGREEMENT WITH AFME IS "NOT RPT NOT NECESSARY" FOR THE 1974-75 ACADEMIC YEAR. MUSTAFA CLAIMS HE SO INFORMED ORIN PARKER DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL, BUT THAT HE WOULD ALSO SEND A LETTER THE EMBASSY AND REPLY TO AFME REFTEL RECEIVED JUNE 26.

2. MUSTAFA FEELS OMAN CAN PLACE STUDENTS IN U.S. THROUGH INFORMAL CONTACTS, ESPECIALLY DR CARR, PRESIDENT, LEWIS UNIVERSITY AND ROY JUMPER OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY. OMAN HAS AGREED TO SEND A TOTAL OF FIFTEEN STUDENTS TO LEWIS IN EXCHANGE FOR TWO FULL TUITION GRANTS. CARR ALSO OFFERED HELP PLACE STUDENTS THROUGH HIS CONTACTS WITH OTHER COLLEGES. MUSTAFA STATES INDIANA U HAS OFFERED TO ACCEPT ALL STUDENTS FROM OMAN WHO APPLY (SIC).

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02689 270906Z

3. REASON FOR DECLINING AFME PROPOSAL NOT APPARENT. ONLY REASON

WE CAN THINK OF IS ADMINISTRATION FEES INCLUDED AFME PROPOSAL.

4. BRITISH COUNCIL SAYS THEY INFORMING MINED THEY WILL BE UNABLE PLACE STUDENTS IN TIME FOR ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1974.

5. COMMENT: MINED OFFICIALS HAVE NOW MISLED OR FAILED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY ON IMPORTANT ISSUES THREE TIMES IN RECENT MONTHS:

A. DESPITE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN PLACING STUDENTS IN US SCHOOLS, WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER, LET ALONE NAMES OR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON STUDENTS RECALLED FROM ARAB AND EASTERN EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES;

B. THE DECISION TO WITHDRAW STUDENTS FROM AN AID-SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AT AUB IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT PRIOR WARNING OR CONSULTATION; AND

C. THE PALPABLY FALSE STATEMENT THAT AFME WAS TOLD IN APRIL THEIR PROPOSAL WAS NOT ACCEPTED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MINISTRY IS MISLEADING ITSELF ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO PLACE OR OTHERWISE MOLLIFY THE LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECALLED, AS WELL AS THE ABILITY OF LEWIS UNIVERSITY AND INDIANA TO ACCEPT ALL STUDENTS, REGARDLESS OF QUALIFICATIONS. BASED ON 1972 STATISTICS, WE ESTIMATE ABOUT 300 SECONDARY AND AT LEAST 200 UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE INVOLVED.

7. ASIDE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DEMANDS LIKELY TO BE PLACED ON THE EMBASSY AS A RESULT OF THIS POLICY, THE LARGER PROBLEM OF THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A LARGE NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY DISATISFIED STUDENTS BEARS CLOSE WATCHING.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: PLS CONTACT CARR AND JUMPER TO CLARIFY THEIR AGREEMENTS WITH THE OMANIS, AS WELL AS DETERMINE CARR'S SUCCESS IN ESTABLISHING PREVIOUSLY NONEXISTANT ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ORIENTATION PROGRAM. EMBASSY CAN USE THIS INFORMATION IN URGING MINED TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 02689 270906Z

RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO EXCLUDE AFME. VISIT BY AFME REP WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. FINALLY, REQUEST ETS AUTHORIZE SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION TOEFL AND SEND MATERIALS SOONEST. NOTE: REFTEL STATING PARKER PLANNED HOME LEAVE BEGINNING JUNE 22 RECEIVED MUSCAT JUNE 24. MCCLELLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, UNIVERSITIES, EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT02689
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740169-0720
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974069/aaaaahed.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BEIRUT 6620 (NOTAL) ET AL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMAN DECLINES AFME PROPOSAL
TAGS: OTRA, SCUL, MU, AFME
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005